

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A strap winder dimensioned and configured to be mounted on a vehicle, the strap winder serving to wind an elongated strap into a coil and comprising:
 - a body;
 - a shaft rotatably supported by the body, the shaft having a longitudinal axis and being dimensioned and configured to receive the strap for winding it about the shaft;
 - 10 a power-operated driver connected to the shaft to rotate the shaft about its longitudinal axis; and
 - a power connector on the strap winder to connect the power-operated driver to a power source whereby to rotate the shaft to coil the strap onto the shaft.
- 15 2. The strap winder of claim 1 wherein the power-operated driver is a pneumatic motor.
3. The strap winder of claim 2 in combination with the vehicle, wherein the power source comprises a pneumatic system associated with the vehicle, and the strap winder is
20 mounted on the vehicle.
4. The strap winder of claim 1 wherein the power-operated driver is an electric motor.
5. The strap winder of claim 4 in combination with the vehicle, wherein the power
25 source comprises a battery-containing electrical system associated with the vehicle, and the strap winder is mounted on the vehicle.
6. The strap winder of claim 1 wherein the power-operated driver is a hydraulic motor.
- 30 7. The strap winder of claim 6 in combination with the vehicle, wherein the power source comprises a hydraulic system associated with the vehicle, and the strap winder is mounted on the vehicle.

8. The strap winder of any one of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 wherein the strap is a cargo strap.

9. The strap winder of claim 1 in combination with a vehicle and enclosed within a container mounted on the vehicle, the container being dimensioned and configured to provide access to the strap winder.

10. The strap winder of claim 9 wherein the container comprises a weather-sealed box having therein a lockable access door.

11. The strap winder of claim 10 wherein the container comprises a coupler through which power may be provided from outside the container to drive the strap winder.

12. The strap winder of claim 1 in combination with a vehicle comprising a truck trailer and a truck cab, and wherein the strap winder is mounted on the truck trailer.

13. A strap winder for winding an elongated strap into a coil, the strap winder comprising:

a body;

a shaft rotatably supported by the body, the shaft having a longitudinal axis and being dimensioned and configured to receive the strap for winding it about the shaft;

a guide member mounted on the strap winder in generally perpendicular relation to the longitudinal axis of the shaft; and

a power-operated driver connected to the shaft to rotate the shaft about its longitudinal axis.

14. The strap winder of claim 13 in combination with a vehicle on which the strap winder is mounted, the vehicle having or being connectable to the power source, the power source being selected from the class consisting of a pneumatic system, a battery-containing electrical system, and a hydraulic system.

15. The strap winder of any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7 or 14 wherein the vehicle is a truck and the elongated strap is a cargo strap.

16. The strap winder of claim 15 enclosed within a container mounted on the truck, the container being dimensioned and configured to provide access to the strap winder.

5 17. The strap winder of claim 13 wherein the guide member comprises a guide plate and the strap winder further comprises a guard plate mounted thereon generally parallel to the guide plate and spaced therefrom to receive the elongated strap between the guard plate and the guide plate.

10 18. The strap winder of claim 17 wherein the guard plate is pivotably mounted for pivoting movement between (1) a safety position in which it is in parallel, spaced relation to the guide plate, and (2) an access position in which it is withdrawn from its safety position to permit removal from the strap winder of a strap coiled about the shaft.

15 19. The strap winder of claim 17 or claim 18 wherein the guard plate is adjustably mounted on the strap winder whereby the axial distance along the shaft between the guard plate and the guide plate can be varied.